

Timeline of Senator Murray's Actions To Save Washington's VA Facilities



- 07/03:** Senator Murray visits veterans in Walla Walla to discuss a variety of issues including CARES.
- 07/03:** Senator Murray writes to Secretary Principi expressing extreme concern about the CARES process and proposed closures to the American Lake, Vancouver and Walla Walla facilities.
- 07/03:** Senator Murray questions VA Chief Counsel Tim McClain about the directive to VISN 20 leaders to consider closing the American Lake, Vancouver and Walla Walla facilities.
- 07/03:** Senator Murray receives a call from Secretary Principi – American Lake is no longer under consideration for closure.
- 07/03:** Senator Murray cosponsors legislation which requires the VA to provide 60-day advance notification to the Congress of any hospital closures under the CARES initiative.
- 08/03:** Senator Murray meets with Washington VA Leaders regarding the CARES process.
- 08/03:** Senator Murray visits with veterans and staff at the American Lake and Vancouver VA.
- 09/03:** Senator Murray questions Secretary Principi at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing.
- 09/03:** Senator Murray provides testimony to the CARES Commission at Vancouver and Walla Walla, and signs a joint WA, OR delegation letter to the Commission in support of the facilities.
- 10/03:** Senator Murray requests the VA to expedite the process to allow Clark County to build an enhanced-use healthcare facility on the Vancouver VA campus.
- 11/03:** Senator Murray visits with veterans in Wenatchee.

- 11/03:** Senator Murray includes language in the VA benefits bill, requiring the Secretary to either open a VA facility in North Central Washington or contract with local hospitals.
- 12/03:** Senator Murray co-authors a letter with Senator Cantwell to VA Undersecretary for Health, Robert Roswell, opposing any closures in Washington.
- 02/04:** Senator Murray again questions Secretary Principi and Undersecretary Roswell.
- 02/04:** CARES Commission sends its report to Secretary Principi – included are recommendations to expand services in Vancouver and close Walla Walla.
- 02/04:** Senator Murray co-authors a letter with Senator Cantwell urging Secretary Principi to reject the CARES Commission's recommendation to close the Walla Walla VA facility.
- 03/04:** Senator Murray questions Under Secretary Roswell during a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing and announces a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Field Hearing to be held in Walla Walla.
- 03/04:** Senator Murray sends her lead legislative staff member for veterans' issues to Walla Walla – for meetings with veterans, community leaders and VA employees.
- 04/04:** Senator Murray holds a United States Senate Veterans' Affairs Field Hearing in Walla Walla.

"I will continue to fight for those who have served our country—in war and in peace—ensuring they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. This fight is clearly not over."

-- Patty Murray, United States Senator